

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Lords and Commons,

In the Parliament-House, upon their first Convention; With the several Debates and Speeches relating thereunto.

Tuesday being the 22d. of this Instant January, and the time appointed for the Meeting of the Convention, the Members, accordingly Elected, met at the Parliament-House at Westminster; Where, after the usual Customs and Ceremonies of the House were over, the Members accordingly took their places; and Mr. Powle being chosen Speaker, made this small Harrangue to the House.

Gentlemen, The Distracted conditions of these Kingdoms, being now left without a Head or King, requires a speedy and double Care from the Representatives in this House: And since there are few here but must of necessity know the Calamities that attend a large and populous Nation, under no certain form of Government, The great Enormities, as Rapes, Murthers, Robberies, Devastations, and Private Pillages, that are very usual and common in such Cases; every Man's private Interest, besides the care of his Native Country, (a Duty Incumbent upon you all) must be sufficient Motives. But one thing I am Commanded (by His Highness the Prince of Orange) to put you in mind of, viz. The present Condition of the Protestants in Ireland, who are now in a deplorable Condition, so vast an Army of Papists being in actual Arms in that Kingdom, and all Sworn Sacramentally Enemies, not only to the Protestant Religion, but also to the Crown of England, that unless some speedy Care be taken for their Relief, they will not only undergo a general Massacre, but also that Kingdom will be inevitably lost to this Crown. I am also commanded to put you in mind of the Growth of France, and the aspiring Hopes of their Turbulent Monarch, who, we know, is not only an Enemy to the Protestant Religion, but also a Sworn Foe to the Crown of England: We therefore ought to be in such a condition, not only to Defend our selves against the utmost of his Force, but also be able to give him so Powerful a Diversion in his own Country, that our former Conquests in France may be remembered, and the Provinces formerly belonging to the Crown of England recover'd.

This Speech was received with a general satisfaction of the House; and a Worthy Gentleman of the same, made this Reply.

Mr. Speaker, We cannot be sufficiently Thankful to Almighty God, whose Providence, *Per varias casus, per tot discrimina rerum*, has brought us all to this Place, and once more put us in a condition of shaking off the Tyrannick Yoke of Romes insufferable Bondage under which we began to Groan; and to which we had been perpetual Slaves, (a miserable condition for English Men) had not the speedy Succours of His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange come just in the Nick and prevented it; and, indeed, in a small time Confounded the tedious Toyls, and incessant Labor of the Papal Chair and its Adherents. And as for the Condition and State of Ireland, and Growth of the French Monarch, I hope we shall take that Care, that we may be in a Capacity of keeping our Own, and stop the Progress of our Enemy the French King. But the first thing we must conclude on, is, A suitable Return to His Royal Highness the Prince of Orange, for the great Care and Hazzard he has undergone for our Preservation, and other Things will follow in course.

This being the general Opinion of the House, a Committee was chosen out to present the Thanks of the House to the Prince, and so ended the business of that Day.

His Highness the Prince of Orange His Letter to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal Assembled at Westminster in this present Convention, January 22d. 1688.

My Lords,

I Have endeavoured, to the utmost of my Power, to perform what was desired from me, in order to the Publick Peace and safety; and I do not know that any thing hath been omitted which might tend to the Preservation of them; since the Administration of Affairs was put into my Hands: It now lieth upon you to lay the Foundations of a firm security for your Religion, your Laws, and your Liberties.

I do not doubt, but that by such a Full and Free Representative of the Nation, as is now met, the Ends of my Declaration will be attained: And since it hath pleased God hitherto to bless my good Intentions with so great Success, I trust in him, that he will compleat his own Work, by sending a Spirit of Peace and Union to influence your Councils, that no interruption may be given to an happy and lasting Settlement.

The Dangerous Condition of the Protestant Interest in Ireland, requiring a large and speedy Succour, and the Present State of Things abroad, oblige me to tell you, That next to the Danger of unseasonable Divisions amongst your selves, Nothing can be so Fatal as too great Delay in your Consultations: The Stat's, by whom I have been enabled to rescue this Nation, may suddenly feel the ill Effects of it, both by being too long deprived of the Service of their Troops, which are now here, and of your early Assistance against a Powerful Enemy, who hath declared War against them: And as England is by Treaty already engaged to help them upon any such Exigencies, so I am confident that their chearful Concurrence to preserve this Kingdom with so much Hazard to themselves, will meet with all the Returns of Friendship and Assistance, which may be expected from you, as Protestants and Englishmen, when ever their Condition shall require it.

Given at St. James's this 22d day of January, 1688.

To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, assembled at Westminster in this present Convention.

Will. H. P. d'Orange

An ORDER of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, Assembled at Westminster in this Present Convention, for a Publick Thanksgiving.

ORDERED, By the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, That Thursday the 31 of January Instant, be and is hereby appointed for the City of London and Ten Miles distance, for a Day of Publick Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for having made his Highness the Prince of Orange, the Glorious Instrument of the Great Deliverance of this Kingdom from Popery and Arbitrary Power. And that Thursday the Fourteenth Day of February next, be and is hereby Appointed for a Publick Thanksgiving throughout the whole Kingdom for the same.